

Spastics News

accent on youth



CHR**STMAS** **SSUE**

December 1967

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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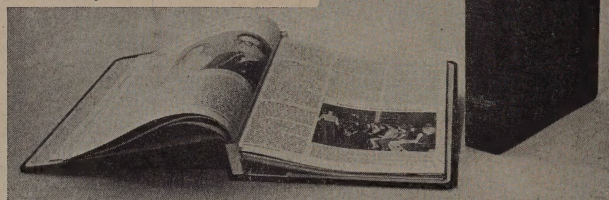
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SPASTICS NEWS

DECEMBER 1967

Vol. XIII, No. 12

Price Sixpence

The magazine of The Spastics Society

Editor: Oliver Beckett

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1

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Front Cover Picture

The child in the high-chair was photographed at the
Manchester Family Help Unit

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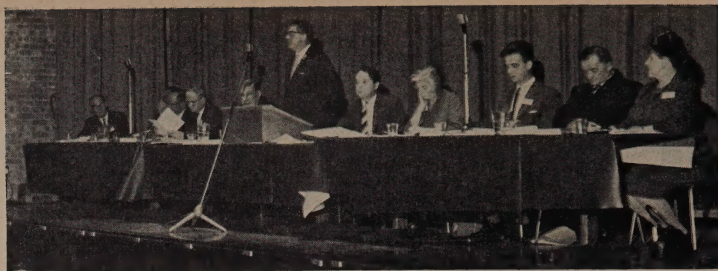
News Flash

JOHN KELLETT IS PLEASED

Sales of Spastics Society Christmas Cards have passed last year's total of no less than 7 million, with still another month to go! On Friday, 24th Nov., Don Moss, the well-known disc jockey and member of S.O.S., went to the factory at Iver, Bucks, and bought the 7 millionth. It looks as though we've headed for a record!

N.B.—The spastics printed card on our back cover is one of the most popular.

The Spastics Society's 15th Annual General Meeting



ON THE PLATFORM: (L. to R.) W. G. Jehan, J. F. G. Emms, H. W. Palmer, Dr. D. E. Wheeler, A. P. Moira, W. A. Burn, the Chairman, speaking, J. A. Loring, the Director, Miss Jean Garwood, J. L. Peterson, T. T. Rees, and Mrs. L. Stockdale

GROUP MEMBERS WHO COMPLAIN that the work of The Spastics Society is not publicised well enough, had their answer at the Society's Annual Conference on Saturday, 4th November.

'No less than 20,000 newspaper cuttings about spastics, came through my hands in a year', declared Mr. Frank Murray-Milne, the head of the Society's public relations firm. This was more than for any other similar body, according to the press agency concerned.

This, combined with an increased output of news and pamphlets from the Information Officer, and, of course, SPASTICS NEWS itself, represents a formidable effort of communications. Mr. W. A. Burn, the Chairman, stressed once again that the good of spastics generally, was the common aim of both the national Society and the local groups, and there was no problem that could not be solved through goodwill.



WERE YOU THERE? The Secretary, Mr. Reg Cumplen, calls the meeting to order

Mr. Burn's
call to young
people:

*'We need your
energy
and enthusiasm
to help in our work'*

The 15th Annual General Meeting took place at the International Students House, next door to Park Crescent, and was well-attended, some 106 members coming to London for it.

Mr. H. W. Palmer, the Honorary Treasurer, who presented the Accounts, took the opportunity to clarify the changes that had been made in the way they were laid out. These changes, it is hoped, will give a clearer picture of the Society's finances than before and will reduce the risk of our being mistaken for a wealthy Society. In particular the schools and centres which had previously been shown as fixed assets had now largely been written off because they were, in fact, a continuing financial liability with little re-sale value. 'The possession of a school does NOT increase wealth', he said.

Similarly, expenditure during the year on buildings and equipment had been

included in the total amount spent on national schools and centres in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Although it was not clear from the accounts owing to the change in presentation, gross running costs of schools and centres had increased by £255,000, largely due to eight newly-opened units and six operating for the whole year for the first time. Appeals and donations were down about £44,000 which was the result of a further fall in the income from the Friends' of Spastics League but this had been partially offset by a bigger income from Spastics cards.

MR. BURN'S SPEECH

Mr. Burn in his closely argued address as Chairman, made it very clear that the Society's financial position was serious and that it would take tremendous efforts and truly charitable understanding 'to

reach greater heights and achievements in providing more extensive and much improved services to spastics', as laid out in the long-term objectives listed in the Annual Report.

The Society was rich in experience but short of resources: concerted action was necessary, and the Society, the Groups, Regional Pool Promotions and the Statutory Authorities must all be brought into the fight. Local Groups must do everything they could to raise funds, and here the Society is only too willing to help and advise. But further, as explained in his article in the November issue of SPASTICS NEWS, Groups could do themselves much good by co-operating to the full with R.P.P.

The workers and supporters are not getting any younger, and every effort must be made to bring in young people to help our work and harness their energy and enthusiasm to our aims.

Aversion to Red Tape

'Young people are ambitious and distrustful of officialdom and red tape', he declared, 'but they will readily respond to a lead which will show them where and how they can help others less fortunate than themselves'.

The Society had a good record of negotiations over fees and grants with Local Authorities but much more needed to be done.

There are over 70 local group centres, but only 23 of them obtained financial assistance in that way, both in achieving grants and increasing those already received. In 1966/7, 23 groups had received £85,000 from Local Authorities, which was an increase of about £16,000 over the previous year, but of that number, four groups, in Bournemouth, Coventry, Sale and Watford, accounted for half the total.

This could and should be improved and anything the national Society could do to help, would be done.

He advised local groups to appoint Press and Publicity Officers who should get to know the local press intimately and further publicise our problems and needs by means of talks, leaflets and film shows, and also establish a picture library.

'By better information and publicity', he said, 'we shall harness the idealism of youth and touch the conscience of the nation'.

'We know only too well,' he remarked in conclusion, 'how many spastics there are for whom no—or inadequate—provision has yet been made. For far too long, nothing was done; for a short time, a modest but increasing amount has been achieved, but by far the greatest amount still remains to be done and done soon.'

'It will need a concerted effort by all, in friendly understanding, to rise to this challenge.'



The member for Worthing, Miss J. Cartter supporting Mr. Thomas's resolution at the microphone

THE RESOLUTION

Mr. W. G. Thomas, nominee member for Gloucester and District Spastics Society, then rose to propose a resolution to the effect that there should be consultations between the Executive and Groups before any National Advertising was embarked upon, where it was likely that those Groups would be affected by such advertising.

This, Mr. Thomas added, was not put in a critical spirit, but in the hope of promoting discussion on a subject that he felt was important to good relations between Headquarters and the Groups. The latter, he maintained, got very upset when there was no mention of local groups who sell Christmas cards in advertisements in local papers.

Miss J. Cartter of Worthing seconded.

Mr. James Loring, the Director, answering, said that there were difficulties over tying in local references to a nationally-devised advert. It was obviously impracticable to send out 163 different ones, but he thought that national and local cards advertisements should be co-

ordinated.

Mr. Day (Yorkshire), suggested that advertisements should suggest contacting local Information Centres. Mr. Smith (Salisbury), suggested inserting the Regional Officer's name, but that would mean thirteen in each advert. Mrs. Pennicott (West Sussex), would just mention 'groups'. Mr. Holt (Welwyn), said there was a lack of communication between Headquarters and Groups anyway. Walhamstow wanted posters for local display.

On Mr. Loring's assurance that everything was being done to improve and co-ordinate the advertising and publicity of the Society, the motion was withdrawn.

In the session after a break for coffee, Miss Cartter (Worthing), asked what the Society was doing about the adult spastic, and Mr. Loring replied that 30 out of 40 National Schemes were for adults. There were also two large Centres—Drummonds and Lancaster—at present being built. Both were for adults. Unfortunately they were the last two large units the Society would ever build unless there was a radical improvement in its income. Such homes were very expensive and they could not get the cost below £4,000 per head, and then £1,000 per year each. Therefore, one for 25 people would cost £100,000. There were 250 very bad cases waiting for places but there would be no improvement until public opinion forced the Politicians to take some action. It would be beyond the resources of private trusts.

He regretted criticism of Meldreth which was an experimental venture in the best sense that had aroused world-wide interest. It had built into it certain of Prof. Tizard's educational research concepts too.

Prof. Legg (Loughborough), wondered

(Continued overleaf)



After the meeting was over, the company dispersed to partake of a light lunch in the precincts of International Students House. Mr. A. N. W. Griffiths, Head of Appeals Campaign Department, on the left, talks to a medical representative

The Society's 15th A.G.M. (Cont'd)

if the building standard was not excessively good.

Mr. Alex Moira replied that prefabrication was not always the best or the cheapest form of building. The Society had to do a solid job—not a lavish one, but one that would last at least for the next 40 years.

Mr. Reid (Thurrock), wanted 'spastic commandos' to help with the severely sub-normal ones because of the shortage of staff.

Mr. Loring was doubtful of the usefulness of half-trained helpers, when only one-fifth of spastics were severely sub-normal. The original aims of the Society were three: one, to bring education to those of average intelligence; two, to run adult centres, and three, to conduct or promote research.

The hopes of twelve Family Help Units have been crippled financially so only four were in operation.

The progress of a spastic was still from Home, to Centre, to Hospital and until a public campaign could bring changes, there would still be hospitals where one nurse had to look after four wards of fifty persons each.

Mrs. Wolff of Nottingham, asked if

local groups could take part in running National Centres. Mr. Loring said that it was quite possible for one person to wear two hats but it was largely a question of the time individuals had to devote to their voluntary duties. Irton Hall did have local connections but on the whole, national and local centres are different species.

When Mr. Herd of Cumberland said there was lack of liaison between Executive and Groups and he was not satisfied with Public Relations and Publicity, Mr. Burn called on Mr. Frank Murray Milne to reply.

He proceeded to explain in a few succinct phrases, mellowed by a Scots accent, that his job and that of his staff was in the sphere of Public Relations, not advertising. They were concerned that the huge newspaper coverage about the Society did accurately reflect the image of the Society. They wanted news-worthy information which with their expertise they could get into the papers free of charge. Also, they sought to anticipate intelligently, events such as Mr. Wilson deciding to donate half the damages in the recent law case to the Society when the evening papers carried the full story and a statement of thanks from the Director on the same day as the announcement.

Dr. Margaret Griffiths spoke movingly about working in a mental health hospital and advised the Society not to fight the Ministry of Health or the National Health Service.

Mr. Brooks (North Wales), brought up a matter that referred to private correspondence between a member in North Wales and Mr. J. F. G. Emms, Chairman of the Regions and Groups Co-ordinating Committee.

It was about a comment on the selec-

tion of S.R.O.'s that had been made at the last A.G.M. But the discussion having lasted for one hour, forty minutes (ten minutes more than last year) Mr. Burn had to bring it to a close.

Dr. Cohen proposed the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Burn for his Chairmanship.

Executive Committee and Consultative Council Election Results

The two retiring members of the Executive Committee, Mr. J. F. G. Emms, and Dr. Sylvia Guthrie were re-elected and Mrs. C. E. Lloyd was elected in place of Mr. R. A. Jupp. The four retiring members of the Consultative Council, Mr. E. Aarons, Mr. J. D. Herd, Mr. A. W. Martin and Mrs. D. A. Woolley, were re-elected and Mr. I. M. Thomas and Dr. R. A. Yorke were elected.

At the Executive Committee meeting after the A.G.M., Mr. W. A. Burn, Mr. A. Moira and Dr. D. Wheeler, and Mr. H. W. Palmer were confirmed in their respective offices.

All-Star Football in E. Anglia

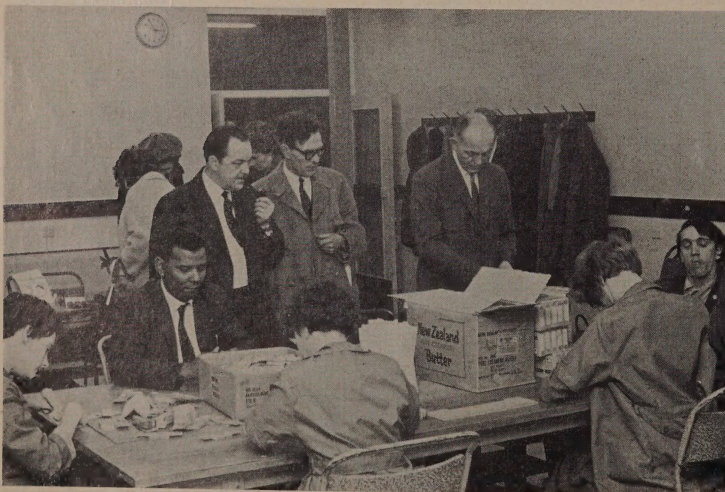
CHATTING TO MR. GEORGE HOWARD, the active Secretary of Norfolk and Norwich Group, at the A.G.M., he told me that the charity football matches he started in the area are going strong.

The Norwich All-Stars F.C. was formed eight years ago and is made up of players past and present who have worn the Canary colours. Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ted Bell, representatives of Ipswich, Colchester combine in these matches. Norwich have raised over £3,500 up to date to help the 350 known spastics in the area, and their next aim is to raise £400 p.a. for the Parent Relief Centre.

It all goes to show that if the initiative is there, money can still be raised.

Quote

'If you want your child to be as normal as possible, treat him or her as normal. You may have to amend this slightly but try to remember it . . .'
Dr. M. Griffiths, of the Spastic Unit of Lea Castle Hospital, talking to parents of handicapped children attending a special weekend course.



A party of visitors to London were taken by coach after lunch to see the work going on at the Paddington Work Centre



PRESENTATIONS TOOK PLACE after the opening when various members of the staff were introduced to H.R.H. Here the Duchess is shaking hands with Mr. G. H. Crabb, Principal of the Training School, while Mr. Loring, Mr. Moira, Mrs. Burn and Mr. Burn are in attendance

Princess Marina Opens Meldreth

'The final seal on many years' hard work'

OFFICIAL OPENINGS have come as thick as the falling leaves this autumn and perhaps the highspot of them all was the visit to Meldreth Training School of our Royal Patron, H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent.

Wearing a matching dress and coat of mulberry coloured bouclé tweed, with a high-crowned fur hat, the Princess arrived by car accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. She was greeted by Mr. W. A. Burn, the Society's Chairman, and escorted into the assembly hall—an attractive room with a pyramidal ceiling in polished wood, bordered by a gallery at first-floor level.

Welcoming her Royal Highness to the school, Mr. Burn said that her presence on this occasion set the final seal on many months and years of hard work by the Society's voluntary workers and staff. Replying, Princess Marina outlined some of the aims of the training school and said that the Society had been a vital pioneer in this kind of work. The only

alternatives to Meldreth were hospitals where children were given no training at all. Much care and thought had been devoted to the project and a great deal of money had been spent.

The Princess concluded by thanking everybody concerned in the opening of the centre and giving her best wishes to the staff. She then unveiled a commemorative plaque and was presented with a bouquet by 13-year-old Carol Joseph, a pupil of the school.

In his address of thanks to the Princess, Mr. James Loring, the Director, said that Meldreth was probably the most exciting and important project that The Spastics Society had ever started. He surveyed the various types of schools and centres opened during the past fifteen years and said that the Society had long been thinking about the best way to help spastic children who were too severely handicapped both physically and mentally to be able to benefit from any formal education. The idea of Meldreth had gradu-

ally evolved over many years and had attracted international attention since it first opened eighteen months ago. Mr. Loring concluded with the hope that children leaving Meldreth would not be doomed to enter any of the overcrowded state hospitals for the sub-normal. The ceremony ended with prayers and a blessing from the Bishop of Huntingdon. During her later tour of the school, the Princess planted a cherry tree in the grounds.

Meldreth will provide residential accommodation for 120 sub-normal spastics, aged from 5 to 16. The aim is to enable pupils eventually to live in the community instead of in mental hospitals. They are taught how to wash, dress and toilet themselves and other simple everyday tasks, and have lessons at nursery level.

In order to provide the children with the less formal atmosphere of smaller living units, Meldreth was designed as four separate houses by Michael Powers of Architects' Co-Partnership.

Manchester F.H.U. is opened

The Lord Mayor speaks of 'confidence and foresight'

MOST PARENTS PREFER to go on looking after their spastic children at home for as long as possible, but not even the most devoted can carry on indefinitely without a break. This is why the Family Help Units are one of the most important aspects of the Society's work, providing short-term residential care for heavily handicapped spastics while their parents go on holiday or in times of emergency. These units have been spread across the country where the need has seemed greatest in Nottingham, Plymouth, and now Manchester.

Southfield, the first of the three to

cater for adults as well as children was officially opened on 17th October by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mrs. Elizabeth Yarwood, J.P. The opening ceremony was held at the back of the building in a large marquee which successfully withstood the gale-force winds blowing at the time. After a brief address of welcome by Dr. Denis Wheeler, Vice-Chairman, the Lord Mayor spoke in praise of the Society's work, of '... the confidence and foresight of its founders, the drive and initiative of those who carry on the work. ...'

She said that the unit would provide

accommodation for thirteen children and seven adults. There were many families in Manchester in need of this kind of help and the Health Committee was continually seeking new ways of assisting the mentally and physically handicapped of the area. The centre had caught the local imagination and many offers of help had come from individuals, schools, colleges and churches. Having unveiled a commemorative plaque, the Lord Mayor was presented with a bouquet by one of 'Southfield' residents, Linda Seed, who made a clearly enunciated little speech, much appreciated by the audience.

Proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. James Loring, the Director, said that he was particularly interested in Southfield as he had personally played a very active role in its planning. Although a joint effort between The Spastics Society and the local group it was very much a Manchester centre and he was pleased to see so much local interest. He added that the Society had hoped to build a further eight Family Help Units but recent financial setbacks had meant cutting down on new projects. This was a pity as the state alternative to these units was often a kind of ghetto.

'Empty Your Pockets'

The vote of thanks was seconded by Mrs. D. M. Snowden, Chairman of the Manchester and District Spastics Society, who said, '... All that remains now is for our citizens to empty their pockets on demand. ...' Then Mr. R. D. Nabarro, Chairman of the Southfield Management Committee, spoke on the work of the unit, which had already been going for about a year and had given accommodation to people from all over the North of England. During this time, his committee had been ably supported by the Warden, Mr. J. B. Arnold, and his competent staff. Referring to the financial setback mentioned by Mr. Loring, he said that Manchester had fortunately just got in time before the curtailment of the building programme. The ceremony was brought to a close with prayers and a blessing by the Dean of Manchester, the Very Reverend Alfred Jowett.

After tea, guests were shown round the unit, which is situated in the quiet residential suburb of Chorlton-cum-Hardy. The original building is a two-storey pre-war house which now forms one side of an attractive central courtyard. The new part of the unit has been purpose-built in one-storey wings around the other three sides. There are plenty of windows to let in as much light as possible and all the rooms open off a spacious corridor, paved with gleaming non-slip rubber tiles.



The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Ald. Mrs. Elizabeth Yarwood, talking to one of the residents at Southfield after she had opened the Centre



The unassuming friendliness of the Duchess of Kent made a great impression when she opened Tees-side Centre. Here she is shaking hands with Miss Joyce Martin; Mr. A. Heseltine is on the left

Work for 40 at Tees-side Centre

Duchess of Kent gives it a happy send-off

GALE FORCE WINDS and heavy rain did little to deter the crowds who greeted H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent when she opened the new work centre in Middlesbrough in October. For the Tees-side Spastics Society this was the climax to several years of planning and local effort, an effort which, with a capital grant of £10,000 from The Spastics Society, resulted in the long-awaited industrial and social premises costing well over £40,000.

Built on a site acquired from the Hospital Authority and adjacent to one of the Middlesbrough hospitals the new centre provides daily accommodation for some 40 adult spastics. Organised on modern industrial lines the centre offers two large work rooms in addition to excellent social facilities. In thanking the Duchess for opening the centre the Chair-

man of the Management Committee, Mr. E. Alan Taylor, laid stress on the need for close co-operation with local industry for the provision of suitable and adequate sub-contract work.

For two local girls the day had a special significance. Miss Joyce Griffiths presented the Duchess with a magnificent bouquet of flowers amidst an emotion which was so clearly shared by the majority present. And from Miss Joan Heseltine, daughter of the Chairman of the local Society, came a handbag as a memento of the occasion.

Though the opening ceremony and tour of the centre followed the pattern traditional to such occasions the day was clearly stamped with the hall mark of Yorkshire. 'A real tyke' was the affectionate welcome given to the Duchess by

the Chairman, Mr. Arthur Heseltine, a welcome to which Her Royal Highness responded with her customary good humour.

That this new centre was only a stepping stone to a much wider goal was made quite clear by Mr. Taylor who referred to their plans for residential facilities associated with the work centre in the future. In opening the centre Her Royal Highness said 'Thousands of willing contributions from the neighbourhood show the magnificent support which you have. I am sure that with this support, you will be able to expand your activities.' No one was left in any real doubt that at the hands of the Tees-side Spastics Society the facilities for spastics in the Middlesbrough area would go from strength to strength.

D.L.G.

Beyond Dogma

'Some Christians may be disturbed by certain of these prayers. We beg them to be courageous enough not to skip over the troublesome pages, not to shut off the questions which, through them, God asks. It is better to listen to God beckoning us in this life, than to hear Him condemning us in the next.'

THUS, THE ABBÉ QUOIST in the foreword to his remarkable book: *Prayers of Life*. Book, yes, but also an anthology of meditation on the paradoxes of life; as full of joy as the Song of Songs, as vivid as Walt Whitman without the flatulence, and as profound as Pascal—but less impenetrable.

Rooted in everyday experience of people but seen through the refractive prism of a strong faith, these pages, in their honesty and their simple eloquence, speak to the 20th Century in a tone of voice that is missing from the orations from the pulpits of any denomination, and yet is acceptable to many shades of opinion.

'In Abbé Quoist's eyes, nothing seems profane or alien to contemplation', as an American reviewer truly remarked.

The Abbé, who is a distinguished scholar, is also an acute sociologist and busy pastor of a city parish, and well known for his work as chaplain to youth clubs and groups in and around Le Havre.

This Logos edition, unchanged since its appearance in 1963, has sold over 200,000 copies in the English speaking world and been translated into many languages; it is a welcome counterblast to the annual holocaust of turkeys at this time of year.

It is obtainable from Mr. G. New, 71 Telford Road, New Southgate, London, N.11, who will *voluntarily* be glad to send a copy to anyone who writes to him enclosing 10s. 6d.

O.R.B.

Prayers of Life by Abbé Michel Quoist, Gill and Son, 10s. 6d.

We regret that two important Book Reviews have had to be held over for the next issue: Mrs. V. D. S. Williams on 'Reins of Life', and Shirley Keene on 'The Disabled in Society'.



Gorgeous New NANS A Queen Elected

Seventeen-year-old, Heather Thompson being congratulated by the Chairman, Mr. Harry Boreham, on her election as Miss NANS A 1967. With her is last year's queen, Jill Wigg, who was pictured on the back cover of the November 1966 issue. Heather is still at Dereham High School and has taken seven 'O' levels in G.C.E. She will, of course, be officiating at all sorts of functions for spastics in the coming year.

COUNT US IN

A Community Service Handbook, by Mora and Alec Dickson (Dennis Dobson—7s. 6d.)

THE IMAGE OF MODERN YOUTH as a degenerate race of sexually promiscuous drug-addicts may be true in some cases, but there is another side to the coin. Newspapers and television programmes often choose to ignore the other side but this book '*Count Us In*', shows that it does exist. The authors, Mora and Alec Dickson, were the founders of Community Service Volunteers and have proved how much young people can offer when given the opportunity.

The book is written in a lively, easy-to-read style and illustrated by rather ugly but eye-catching drawings. It is aimed principally at people in their last two or three years at school and gives much practical advice on the formation of Community Service groups in schools and youth clubs. The authors stress the importance of having a specific project in mind before calling for volunteers, as members will soon lose interest if they feel that there is not enough work for them to do.

Another interesting piece of advice is for the young people not to bother with fund-raising unless it is for some project on which they are working themselves. 'Finance is the concern of the adult population. What the young have to give is themselves. . . .' A short-term project such as laying out a hospital garden or adventure playground may be easier for inexperienced volunteers to tackle than visits to the elderly or handicapped which need to be kept up regularly over a long period.

Advice on how best to help the physically handicapped shows great insight. '... The old Lady Bountiful approach with its undertones of condescension is

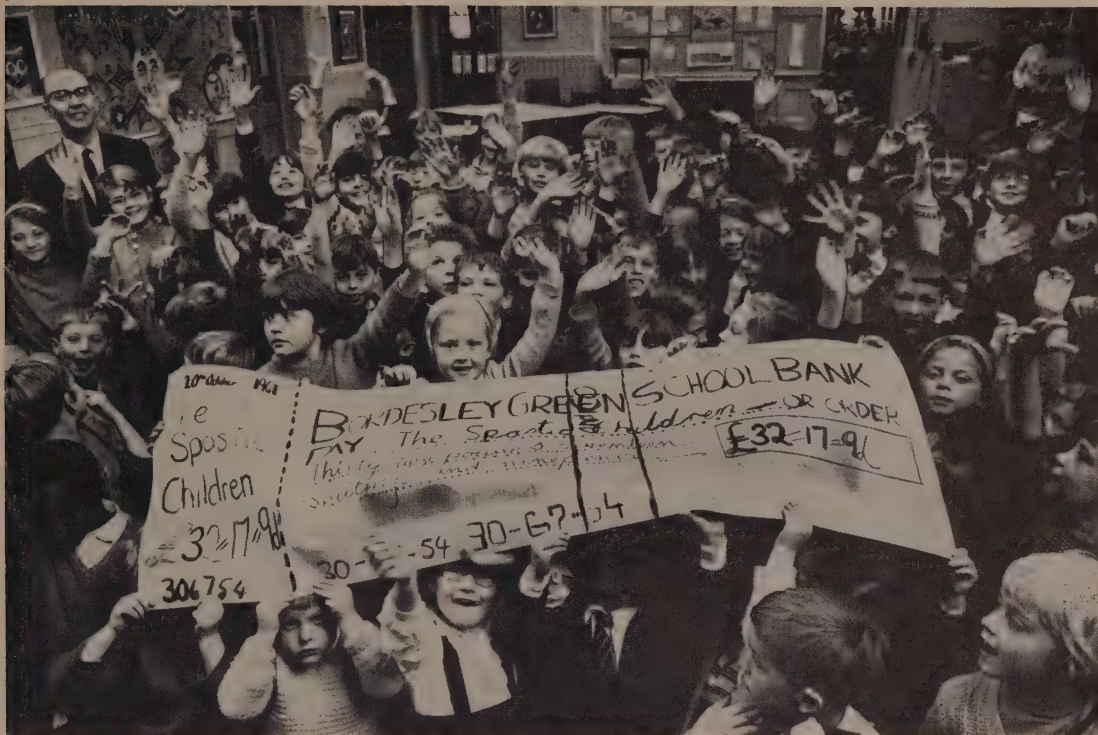
out. . . .' Emphasis is put on sharing rather than looking-after. The example is given of a young volunteer who strapped himself into a wheelchair to play basketball with a group of paraplegics and pleased them by being so much worse at the game than they were. Also suggested are various ways in which the handicapped can be helped to do something for others instead of being always on the receiving end.

The book does not minimise the difficulties that may be encountered. It points out that old people can be cantankerous, those in authority obstructive and people generally not always as grateful as perhaps they should be. At the end there are lists of local and national organisations who might be glad of young helpers.

The most encouraging section of the book, however, is the chapter called '*Operational Patterns*', which describes various projects successfully carried out by young people in eight different parts of the country. Sheffield schoolgirls ease the pressure on nurses at mealtimes in a local hospital by helping to feed handicapped patients. Even the youth of swinging London is not entirely devoted to pot and Carnaby Street, thousands of volunteers between the ages of 14 and 30 belong to Task Force in their spare time.

'*Count Us In*', surely proves that not all young people are selfish and dissolute. A great many of them obviously care about the plight of those less fortunate and are prepared to do something positive about it. Their approach to problems, moreover, has a gaiety and understanding which should be encouraged as they will breathe new life into the long tradition of voluntary service in this country. A.P.

Youth in the Service of the Handicapped



(Photo: The Birmingham Post)

A SPLENDID EFFORT: A crowd of merry children hold up a giant replica of the cheque they presented to West Midland group. The gift of £32 17s. 9d. was collected by the Bordesley Green Junior and Infant School at the Harvest Sale, with the help of the Headmaster, Mr. E. I. Page (top left)

A SYMPOSIUM OF REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

THE PAST YEAR SAW the inauguration of 'P.H.A.B.'—an amalgamation of physically handicapped and able-bodied to promote mutual friendship between the residents of The Spastics Society's Broadstones Hostel and public-spirited young volunteers. In Birmingham the Young Volunteers Trust and Community Service Volunteers are particularly active, under the inspired leadership of Miss Jane Markham, Organising Officer. Spastics, and others, too, with a variety of disabilities now know the joy of outings, car rides, picnics, visits to interesting places, country idylls, parties, games, and wider social intercourse which makes them aware of the broad spectrum of happiness available to them in life.

A number of young people can always be relied upon to help the Midland

Spastic Association's many activities for teenage spastics. This old Association also has its own 'Helping Hand Club' whose handicapped members exult in demonstrating their independence and interdependence on each other, but none the less they welcome all opportunities for broadening their minds and shoulders by contact with normal youths. The get-up-and-go spirit which has characterised many recent initiative tests and produced such high standards of achievement can probably be traced to the wider outlook arising from such contacts.

At the NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE'S Reginald Grocott Centre, are to be seen several young people of both sexes who regularly attend on 'Activities Night' and do so many things that defy definition, the net result being very obvious enjoy-

ment for the spastics concerned.

WEST BROMWICH & DISTRICT planning for the future, has been rewarded by two young volunteers for jobs as Appeals Chairman and Appeals Secretary—John Wardle and Annette Broadbent—and the new look is definitely 'in', for they have brought other young people with them.

A new model Appeals Committee composed of young people is also the objective of the DUDLEY & DISTRICT SPASTIC GROUP and is already half-realised following a successful A.G.M. at which the need for youthful drive was stressed and several young people enlisted to help with fund-raising.

SHROPSHIRE SPASTICS SOCIETY, usually in the lead in helping spastics,

(Continued overleaf)

West Midlands: A BROAD SPECTRUM

West Midlands (Cont'd)

has attracted offers of assistance from young people prepared to donate to the Group money gathered by long distance walking feats and other tests of endurance.

New young faces have recently appeared on STAFFORD Group's Committee.

In the many sub-committees and activities run by WOLVERHAMPTON, young people find an ideal outlet for worthwhile service to the community. In its wide-ranging social impact this progressive Group draws increasing support from young people.

NEXT YEAR:

In 1968 the theme of the Annual Conference of West Midlands Region will be 'Youth and Service'. The Regional Advisory Committee endorses this choice of subject as most timely and important, believing that some of the vast amount of idealism and goodwill which the great majority of today's youngsters possess can bring much happiness to handicapped people and provide the unselfish givers with a sense of purpose and satisfaction.



TOBLER TEDDY BEAR: Three-year-old Victoria Robinson makes short work of a piece of a 44 lb. chocolate teddy bear presented to the Family Help Unit at Nottingham by the Swiss firm

—it's all happening—

East Region:

Type of Help	Area	Volunteers
Sitting-in	Canterbury	Students.
	Leicester	
	Nottingham	
Shop	Hastings	
Centre	Bedford	Senior Schoolchildren assist in nursery and work centre.
	Brighton	Youth Clubs pay visits and also take residents out to their clubs. Sea Scouts take residents for boat excursions. Girl Guides visit centre and residents act as 'Brown Owls' for the Brownies. Young Folk Singers from Community Centre.
	Hastings	
	Lincolnshire Spastics Centre	
	Nottingham	
	Watford	Secondary School Girls look after children of Young Mothers' Club.
Redecoration of Centre	White Lodge	Girls from Francis Coombs School. Aldenham School.
	Bedford	Sixth-formers and young people from Remand Homes.
	Watford	St. Albans Branch of United Nations Association.
	Oxford	External by I.V.S.
Delivery of 'Spastics News'	Welwyn	Methodist Church Youth Club.
Outings	Bedford	Completely organised by Youth Club.
Riding	Bedford	Young riders.
	Crawley	
	Wycombe	
Fêtes, etc.	South Humberside	Abbey School.
	Watford	
Visiting	Ipswich	Y.P.A.S.S. visit both physically and mentally handicapped, and sometimes take them out for social evenings.
Direct fund-raising	East Midlands Groups	Carol parties
		Small auctions
		School collections.
	Ipswich	Secondary to social services.
	Slough	Girls' High School—£50.
General	Watford	Victoria Boys' School—donation.
	Ponds	Scouts and Youth Clubs.
	Oxford	Local Council of Social Service co-ordinate voluntary work by schoolchildren after their exams., including taking spastics for walks, reading to and playing games with them.
	Slough	Bayliss Court School and Girls' High School—also stamp collecting.
	The Mount, Nottingham	Six Secondary schoolgirls per week assist with feeding, playing and bathing.

Wessex Region:

'The Groups in Wessex on the whole are keen to get the youth in their area interested in our work. They are unanimous in their feeling that to form a young group for the purpose of fund-raising is "not on" and that if they are to go out to rouse interest in the young they must be able to give them some practical means by which they can associate themselves with spastics. At the present time it is really only the Southampton and Bournemouth Groups who can do this.'

From Miss Charmian Mould.

Cheltenham

Cheltenham Ladies' College give regular donations raised through personal subscriptions to the Group and from time to time other schools called upon for assistance in various ways have willingly given time and service; the College also collects stamps on behalf of spastics which are sent to the Portsmouth Work Centre for processing.

The Boy Scouts Association are continually helping this Group in a variety of ways and are tireless in their efforts. They are going all out to raise the level of their yearly fund-raising, are thinking in terms of recruiting practical help from Youth Clubs, in particular they are hoping to attract some of the town's youth to help them with their Saturday Group.

Basingstoke

Two local schools have provided in the past and continue to provide helpers to the local Group and at the Regional Conference last year the Basingstoke County High School not only provided stewards throughout the day but some senior pupils stayed on to help with the arduous work of clearing up.

Winchester

A student of King Alfred's College—changing each year—sits as a member of the Group's Executive Committee and two students come along to the weekly social gathering. The Chairman of this Group proposes to form a youth club in his area if possible. He feels that the current North Hampshire Appeal would give them something practical to deal with.

Salisbury

Several enquiries have been received during the past few months from local senior-school pupils, their object being to provide help and service to the handicapped. Several senior school girls approached the Regional Officer asking if there was any way they could practically help the handicapped. It is thought that as a result of this a small local youth club may be formed in the coming months



(Photo: Eastern Evening News)

RIDING HIGH: Walter Armes and three others from the Norfolk and Norwich Centre were riding for the first time at the Tasburgh stables run by 20-year-old Miss Christine Johnson (right). They loved the new experience—and it was all free!

who would actively work with the local Group.

Bournemouth & Poole, Southampton

The Bournemouth School and Centre and Southampton Centres are regularly visited by both junior and senior members of local schools and talks are given from time to time to senior classes. There is a proposal on the table to form a 'workers group' to be composed of the older teenager and young adult to work actively with and for the new Centre in Rose Road.

Portsmouth

Young pupils from a local school visit the Portsmouth work centre each week on their way home from school and a number of schools provide active helpers for the numerous fund-raising activities of the Group's Ladies' Committee.

Isle of Wight

The Forest Side School has very close ties with the local Secondary Modern School as it was originally a class of this school. Two other schools in the Newport area are providing imaginative and active help by accepting some of the more advanced pupils from Forest Side School into their own classes on a one day a week basis. This experiment is proving most successful.

Andover

Andover are planning to promote the interest of both youth clubs and school-children. As the Chairman is a school-

master himself he is hoping to be able to organise a small youth club in that area to work with the Andover Group.

Merseyside and N.W. Region:

There are young people helping the following Groups and '62 Clubs in a non-organised way:—Chester '62 Club, Crewe '62 Club, Widnes Club, Southport (Ellerslie Holiday Home).

Each year for the past two, the boys of Stonyhurst College have taken 10-12 spastic boys from Merseyside to a camp at the college in the summer with a reunion party at Christmas.

Manchester Region:

Sale, Altrincham & District Spastics Society

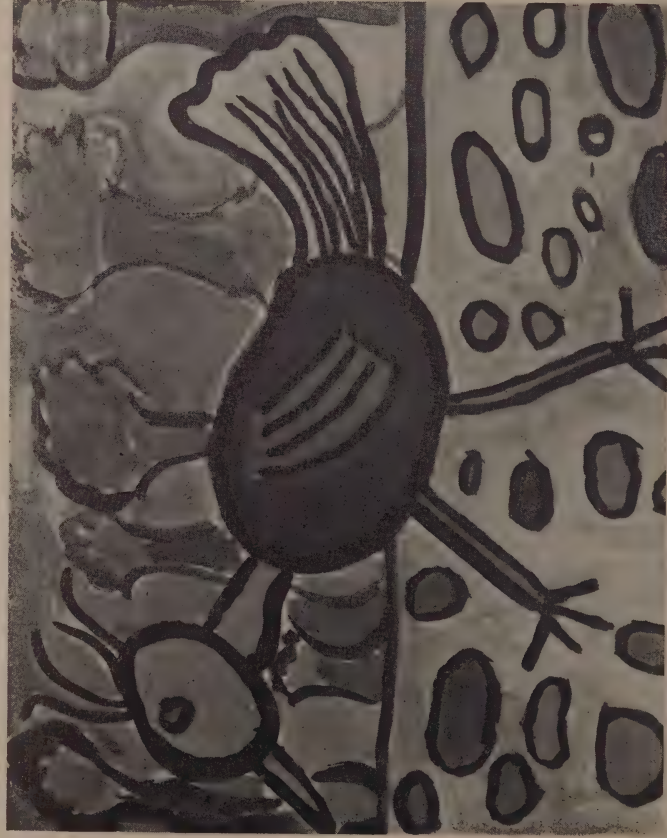
- a) Girls from Sale Grammar School come in to the Centre after school and help to give the children who stay overnight their tea and help to put the children to bed.
- b) Boy Scouts help with our bigger functions, e.g. garden party.
- c) Local children run small jumble sales, etc., for us, many of them sell their toys and books and send us the proceeds.
- d) Sale Crusaders and many other young people help us considerably on flag

(Continued on page 16)

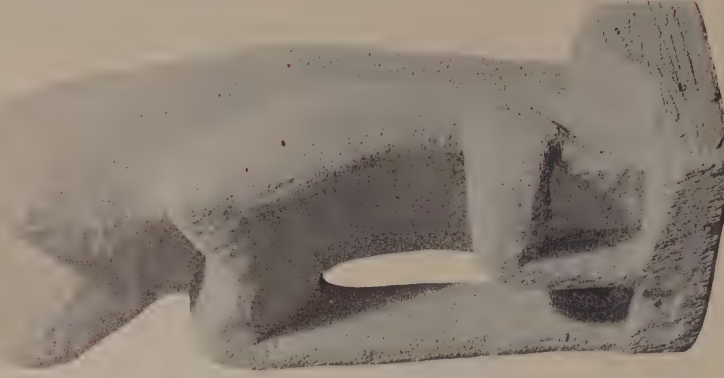
The Art of the Child

Self-expression, the birth-right of the average child, is so much more difficult of attainment by those handicapped in speech, hearing or movement, that the silent colloquy between feeling, colour and form becomes of supreme importance in their development. Here are six works of art, one from each of the Society's Schools, which we present with pride for the consideration, yes, and enjoyment of our readers. We only regret that it would have been too expensive to reproduce them in colour. THE EDITOR

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2



No. 1. THE MAGIC BIRD by Linda Harrison, aged 13, of Craigy-Parc. Linda (a left hemiplegic) was very timid and shy at first but helped by her interest in Art, is now much more extroverted and chatty. Her picture is a fine, bold design in blue, pink and green.

No. 2. SCULPTURE COMPOSITION by Clifford Haynes, aged 18, of Thomas Delarue. This really remarkable work stands about 2 ft. high and was created by Clifford—a lightly affected athetoid—out of a soft manufactured stone with only a sharpened hammer, a rasp and one small chisel. The flowing lines express an organic harmony.

No. 3. MY GIRL FRIEND—SALLY by Martin Green, aged 10, of Ingfield Manor. This jolly picture has all the 'brio' of Russian folk art, and yet it conveys Martin's feelings of affection for a kind girl who comes to visit him. He has been at Ingfield four years and made great progress.

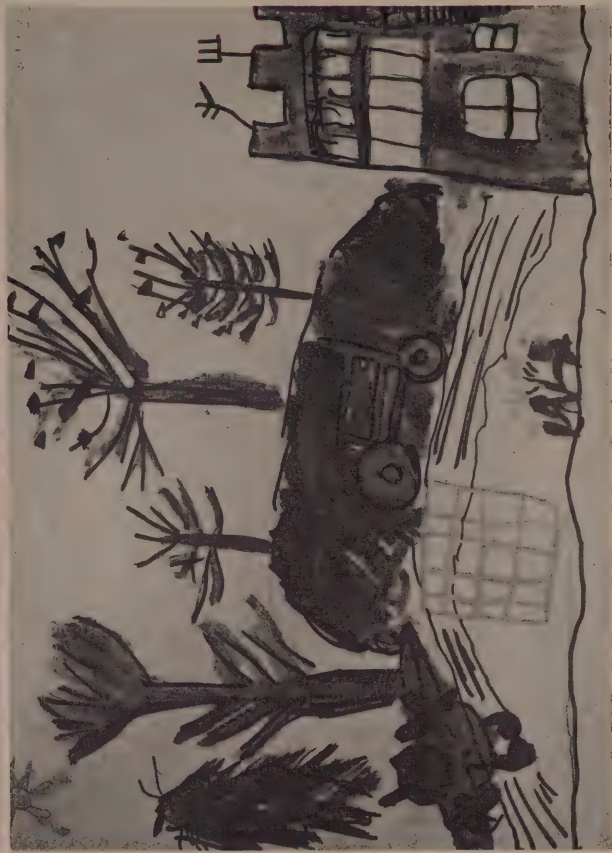
No. 4. THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR by Christopher Channon, aged 10, from Wilfred Pickles School. This is a powerful bit of work by any standard and shows a man o' war firing a broadside against the 'Frenchies' painted in oils in strong shades of blue, with the hulks in brown, the scene has a vivid impact.



5

No. 5. ABSTRACT ACTION PICTURE by Barbara Connor, aged 12, from Meldreth. An eye-catching composition in greens, reds and yellows with drips in the best tradition of 'tachisme'! Barbara, who has been over a year at Meldreth, is retarded, but obviously has an eye for colour.

No. 6. ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND by William Wilkinson, aged 11, from Ipton Hall. This delightfully vivid rendering of the school playground shows that William—an athetoid—is observant; note the T.V. aerials, and has a distinct appreciation of form.



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Youth in the Service of the Handicapped

Manchester Region (Cont'd)

days. Sale Crusaders Union raised £170 for the Centre by a sponsored walk of 26 miles.

- e) Schoolchildren are of considerable help selling programmes, etc.
- f) Two schoolgirls come each Saturday morning to sort the laundry.
- g) Members of the 18-plus Group have helped to serve refreshments at functions and have made us a donation.
- h) Girls of a Home Office Approved School have on a number of occasions, invited our children to a tea-party which they prepare themselves, they also make toys, etc., for the children.
- j) Pupils from the local Secondary Modern School mend our collecting boxes.
- k) Forty children from a music school in Linköping, Sweden, came to England on vacation and while here gave a concert for us, enabling us to raise £70. The local Grammar Schools acted as hosts to the Swedish children during their two-night stay in Sale and the Domestic Science department of the local College of Further Education prepared and served a wonderful Swedish supper at the function.

Yorkshire Region:

—broad acres, wide sympathy

York & District

- a) Boy Scouts helped at the annual sale of work and also helped pack and sort silver paper and bottle tops.
- b) Youth Action York helped at Lidgett Grove Spastics Unit. They have also taken a spastic child for walks and helped clean the windows of the Group offices.
- c) Schoolchildren gave a gymnastic display and a pop group performed for spastic children at their Christmas party.
- d) Two girls from St. Margaret's School, York, helped to teach two spastic boys to type.

Bradford & District

The actual help given over the past year by young people has been quite varied, the youngsters hold jumble sales during their school holidays, one certain form of the Bolling High School for girls made our 'Group' their 'Project' for the year and

raised £20 through various activities. Girls from a local training college help at our Monday Night Club.

Sheffield & District

Youth Action (Sheffield), have helped our spastics tremendously over the last two or three years. Youth Action organises visits by teenage children from the upper forms in the schools to our spastics in their homes, and organise parties of schoolchildren to take our spastics from the Day Centre on Wednesday to the Silver Blades Ten-Pin Bowling Alley in Sheffield, with the very full co-operation of the manager of the bowling alley.

Rammarsh & District

As far as I am aware the Youth Club in our area have given no specific help to spastics during the last year. We did, however, hold a football match last winter and I am told that the Parkgate Youth Club sold a lot of tickets but this match was not actually run by our committee so I am afraid that this is all the information which is available.

Huddersfield & District

July, 1966—Member of the Youth Club of Huddersfield Parish Church, an 18-year-old university student, accompanied the group holiday to Southport as escort for a week. This was at short notice when the usual escort was prevented from going by sudden illness. February, 1967—Members of the Y.M.C.A. assisted at a social evening held at their club premises, though not organised by them. June, 1967—Members of Youth on Call group have decorated a room at the house of one of our spastic members who lives alone with nine-year-old daughter. They may carry out work of a similar nature on other rooms and will probably tidy the garden. Youth on Call may be approached later in connection with social activities.

Holly Bank Special School

Regular help has been given by Youth on Call; two girls help to bath children on Wednesdays. Two boys run a model railway club. Lindley Girl Guides help regularly with washing-up on Sundays. The Legion of Mary have helped generally on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. During term-time a group of girls from a local school have helped for the last fortnight of the summer term in the classroom and generally with the children, and in the physiotherapy room. Individual young people have visited from time to time to take out and/or play with individual children.

SORE FEET IN A GOOD CAUSE



(Photo: Shropshire Star)

Sir Offley Wakeman, President of the Shropshire Spastics Society amongst some of the pupils from the Priory Girls' School, Shrewsbury, with the magnificent cheque for £716 that they had raised on a sponsored walk. Among those present at the presentation at the Katherine Elliott School were Miss Elizabeth Holdsworth, Jackie Gunn, Paul Wigley and Evelyn Harvey



(Photo: Peter Stirling)

LINCOLNSHIRE CENTRE OPENED: When the Earl of Ancaster (left) officially opened this fine centre he was conducted round the workshop by the Warden, Mr. D. Hazelton

Youth in the Service of the Handicapped

Letter from Mr. G. E. Wannell:

'As Hon. Secretary of the Plymouth Group I cannot speak too highly of the services which are given by Plymouth and District Youth as outlined above.'

St. Austell & District

a) We have always been able to rely on help from the local St. Austell Youth Club and the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

The teenagers organise concerts and raise money from their own efforts and then proudly present us with a cheque.

The pupils of St. Austell Grammar School last term raised money from concerts and jumble sales and from the proceeds the St. Austell Group of the Cornish Spastics Society were presented with a cheque for £21 1s. 8d.

Last Christmas members of the Launceston Young People's Drama Group gave concerts in their own area to raise money in order to travel a distance of 35 miles in a hired mini-bus to St. Austell where they staged a very good play for the entertainment of spastics from Bodmin, Newquay and St. Austell areas at the Christmas party. These youngsters also provided party hats, streamers, etc., and joined in with the spastics to give them a wonderful party.

In the St. Austell area, we have the P.A.R. Young Wives' Club, who have raised £30 to date in cash from jumble sales and coffee evenings. They have collected a large quantity of clothing for a spastic in a large family and during the months of June, July and August they provide a baby-sitting service at the Varcoe Holiday Home for Spastics.

CORNISH SPASTICS SOCIETY Youth and Service

Dear Mr. Pope,

Mr. Norman of St. Ives, gave a wonderful afternoon to young spastics on Saturday, 9th September, at 'Mr. Peggotty's', Porthmeor Beach. Mr. Jago, who attended, was tremendously impressed by the teenagers who attended and who fully looked after every handicapped youngster! From lunch, through beach games, dancing, to tea, two teenagers saw to the enjoyment (and, feeding where necessary) of each handicapped visitor!

Yours sincerely, MOLLY ROSE (Hon. Secretary).

Camborne/Redruth Local Committee

a) Local Youth Clubs had a 50-mile walk paying 1d. per mile to our funds.

b) Local boys and girls—schoolgirls and boys, college students have entertained spastics by giving 'folk-music' entertainment, also concerts to help us raise funds. Scouts, Guides, Brownies have

(Continued overleaf)

West Region: — tremendous efforts

Bridgwater & District Friends of Spastics Association

Boy Scouts are called on for certain jobs whenever possible.

Bath & District Spastics Society

a) In May, 1966, some toys, model aeroplanes, dressed dolls and felt toys made by children from the Argyle Street Congregational Church in Bath were received.

b) At the last Christmas party for spastic children in Bath, a group of young handbell ringers from Compton Sands came and played carols. This was a great success.

CORNISH SPASTICS SOCIETY Bodmin & District Branch

a) Bodmin Methodist Youth Club arrange coffee evenings in co-operation with a film on spastics and the sale of Christmas cards and help in the Cornish Spastics Show Caravan, and

b) sell buttonholes and generally help with the Falmouth Summer Fayre.

Truro & District Local Committee

Last year our Christmas party was held at St. Clement Street Methodist Church Hall, Truro, and members of the Youth Club there (T.A.M.Y.F.), Truro Area Methodist Youth Fellowship helped decorate the room.

Falmouth '62 Club

The Falmouth '62 Club receives a lot of help from the members of the local Youth Club. As well as helping the club with its printing, Falmouth Youth Club has given a party for us, and also helped at our New Year's party.

Weston & District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped

a) R.A.F. personnel have given assistance in driving the mini-bus at St. Margaret's. They have also helped with the Youth Club ('Mendip Teen & Twenty Club'), games, etc. The Girl Guides have given help to St. Margaret's in looking after the children—more particularly on Sundays. The Rotary Club in this area has offered help but not in any specific sphere of the work. Donations have been made for outings and towards the building of the Adult Training Centre.

The Plymouth Spastics (C.P.) Association

a) Young people (6th Formers from Grammar Schools and from Church Youth Clubs) have attended at the Work Centre and at Cliveden Hostel during the end of term and school holiday periods and they have been a tonic to the adult spastics. They also help in many ways such as collecting on flag days, painting toys for sale at our Christmas Toy Fayre and by raising money by organised carol singing.

Young members of the Vespa Scooter Club have proved themselves to be invaluable in the work of collecting toys, repairing and repainting same which are sold at our Christmas Fayre. They also help by collecting on flag days.

A substantial donation towards furnishing a room at our Cliveden Hostel was received from the Saltash Wesley Youth Club. Help is also given by 6th Formers from Girls' Grammar Schools who attend at 'Tregreath' to help with the children.

Youth in the Service of the Handicapped

West Region (Cont'd)

helped at bazaars by running side-shows, etc.

- c) Those above are always willing to help when needed.

West Cornwall Committee

1. Help given to patients at St. Teresa's Cheshire Home—which include several spastics—by Heather Thomas (daughter of our Committee Member, Mrs. S. Thomas) and Red Cross Cadets—particularly at Christmas with correspondence, etc.
2. Entertainment of our spastics by the Rev. Farley's Children's Choir, Marazion.
3. Help given on many occasions by Catherine Pooley, daughter of our retiring Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Pooley.
4. Transport provided frequently by Robert Nicholls, son of Mrs. R. H. Nicholls.
5. Western Areas' Youth Walk, 1967.—99 walkers for whom their sponsors contributed 1d. per mile—£24 10s. 9d.
6. Six girls from Youth Clubs sold flags—3rd June.
7. Mr. Rose—with the 'blessing' of the Headmaster—received assistance in laying a garden path from six boys, pupils of the Humphrey Davy Grammar School—£5 to the funds. Further help is anticipated from most of these young people.

S. Wales Region:

Swansea

A Scout troop in the town takes several of the boys at the Group Centre 'under its wing'. In fact, several of them are members of the troop. Red Cross Cadets also help with periodic swimming sessions.

Cardiff

Students from the local College of Music and Drama assist with the Group's '62 Club, and have for a couple of years written and produced the Club's Christmas concert. A student teacher is taking a young adult spastic girl who has a very poor home background out to the cinema, etc., two evenings a week during her vacation.

Monmouthshire

There is nothing organised, but the pupils from a local Grammar School assist from time to time in the running of the Youth Club in Cwmbran. (The new Chairman of the Newport Committee is about to have a 'blitz' on the youth of Newport, and I shall be assisting him with films and talks in the Autumn.)

Sully Work Centre

Two sixteen-year-old girls living in Sully have at their request gone into the Work Centre daily to help the young people there.

Penarth Hostel

The Youth Club of the local Parish Church include the residents of the hostel in many of their activities.

London Region: (North)

Walthamstow & District Spastics Society

1. Mr. Searle of 12 Vernon Road, Walthamstow. This young man is a Gold Medallist (Swimming) and anxious to help our members. He has examined various baths in the area and has now obtained permission to take a party at any time to Dr. Barnardo's pool, he will use his own transport which has facilities to take wheelchairs.
2. Mr. Michael Heath of 19 The Crescent, Walthamstow, is a member of the local St. John Ambulance Service. He helps disabled throughout the district and uses his own transport to bring members along to the social evenings, has

been known to carry one of our young lads upstairs and tuck him in bed, always ready to accompany members on coach outings bringing his little Black Case with him.

3. The Forest School for Boys, Snarebrook, help us with fund-raising.
4. The Athans Boy's Club, now in the throes of building themselves a new Headquarters, have advised us that they are constructing a new gymnasium with ramps where necessary, low tennis tables for disabled (they will be able to play from a wheelchair), they are also planning a chess tournament for disabled. The Headquarters will be ready about November.

Hornsey Centre

Local schools give regular help in fund-raising.

North London

Local Scout groups have helped in door-to-door distribution of publicity material.

Epping Group

One or two pupils of a local school have regularly attended the treatment clinic at Buckhurst Hill to assist the physiotherapist.

- Orpington is on the ball -

Dear Mr. Beckett,

Thank you for your letter about the Christmas issue of the SPASTICS NEWS.

I am enclosing a copy of the Club's Constitution which has recently been adopted at the Inaugural Meeting. The Club started in May 1967, as it was felt that there was a need for this type of club in the borough, many clubs are in existence for older people that do not seem to stimulate the interest of younger members.

The starting of the club was a purely voluntary effort by a colleague, Ray Ranson and myself, irrespective of the fact that we are both employed by the London Borough of Bromley. We have had the greatest co-operation from the Borough and local Voluntary Organisations.

The club meets on alternate Thursday evenings at the Orpington Baptist Church Hall from 7.30 to 10 p.m. The Church Youth Club meets at the same time and there is a gradual amalgamation of the two groups in certain activities. For example we have the use of their table tennis and billiards table. The club has its own record player and recently we have been given a tape recorder. For our blind members we have special sets of cards, chess and draughts.

This week we are having a coach trip to Southend to see the lights following a successful day out to Folkestone in June. We plan to have more of these trips in the future whenever possible.

The club is very small at the moment but two-thirds of our members are spastics, the others are of varying disability including the blind.

From The Secretary, MISS J. MOGRIDGE, Orpington Young Handicapped Club, 11 Perry Street Gardens, Chislehurst, Kent. (London Region South)

A TYPICAL CONSTITUTION

- 1 The Club will be known as The Orpington Younger Handicapped Club.
- 2 **Membership**
Membership will be open to those—aged between 16 and 30 years (any exceptions to be considered by the Committee), who by reason of their physical disability have a limited social life; who reside in or near the London Borough of Bromley.
- 3 **Meetings**
Meetings will be held on fortnightly Thursday evenings from approximately 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at the Orpington Baptist Church Hall, with an option on weekly meetings if desired in the future.
- 4 **Subscription**
The subscription will be 1s. (one shilling) per meeting, but inability to pay will not be a bar to membership.
- 5 **Finance**
The permission of the Committee will be requested before club money is used for any purpose. In the event of the club being disbanded any monies accrued will be donated to a charity nominated by the Committee.
- 6 **Committee**
The Committee will be comprised of:—Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and three members. The Committee will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the club by the members.
- 7 **Committee Meetings**
Meetings will be held approximately every two months, members will be notified of any decisions taken. Not less than four members must be present. The Chairman may call an extraordinary meeting in event of any emergency.
- 8 **Aim and Activities**
To provide social contact for young handicapped people who by reason of their disability are deprived of such contact. To provide such entertainment as desired by the members as may be reasonable and financially possible.

Bronze, Silver and Gold

the story of
the Cardiff and
District
Association

told by
T. J. EVANS
(Hon. Secretary)



THE TWO ROBERTS

These two 18-year-olds, Robert Williams and Robert Willis, are the first in the Cardiff '62 Club to win Gold Awards. The first named walked nearly 15 miles, despite being paralysed on one side, and the second did a tough 50-mile trek across Dartmoor. Robert Williams has also learned to swim and type, and Robert Willis has learnt archery and helped an old-age pensioner. Their efforts embodied all the principles of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

WHEN THE CARDIFF AND DISTRICT SPASTICS ASSOCIATION was first formed, they were faced with the costs of full-time education being provided for spastics in the area covered by the Association. After a long but difficult struggle full-time education is being provided by the Society and the Local Authorities.

This left those who were retarded and severely handicapped to be provided for, this was then accomplished. But the problem arose of those who had left school, and the adults who hitherto had not been catered for.

The 12th October, 1962, saw the birth of a club for them. They decided to call themselves the *Cardiff and District Spastics 62 Club*. Accommodation for the Club was found in a draughty church hall which has since been demolished. But in spite of the poor accommodation the Club continued to grow, and had to make two further moves, due to growth, before it finally reached its present H.Q. which is a very fine Youth Centre situated in the Docks area of Cardiff, and was opened some three years ago by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. James Callaghan.

This is a club of a difference divided into two sections; the junior sections are being trained in various activities, and the senior section is running its own affairs, so with each section contributing to the other, the Club has been able to go on from one success to another.

Three years ago it was felt that a start could be made in anticipating the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. So an application was made to the City's Director of Education. He in turn sent his representatives to visit the Club and after a

few visits he gave the go ahead, although it was felt he had some doubts in his mind regarding any success. But after much hard work by the dedicated persons who came along to act as trainers, the Club in two years had 19 Bronze awards and two Silvers. The most recent successes during the last six months have been two Gold awards and five Silver awards.

The two Gold award winners were the first two to enter the scheme, and many a romantic story can be told in their way to obtaining their Gold medals which will be presented to them at Buckingham Palace in the spring of next year. They have already been presented with their award certificates by Commander David Cobb, R.N., at the City Hall, Cardiff.

What Adventures

What of their adventures and experiences? One of the lads had his canoe capsized in Langorse Lake in the Brecon Beacons, and when other boats rushed to the scene to effect a rescue he had swum ashore, and was safe and sound on the bank, and waving to the would-be rescuers to bring his canoe ashore.

He also excelled himself at an Outward Bound Course in Devon. Whilst competing for his Silver award and doing a 10-mile tramp which had to be done in a given time, he delayed his walk to help one of his club mates who had got into difficulties. The other lad who suffers with a more severe handicap refused to give up when advised to do so by his examiner.

This same lad at an early age, when unable to talk, was challenged when having speech therapy, that when he could pronounce words sounding every

syllable he would be given a watch. He took up this challenge, and within three years the watch was his. Today he can partake in an intelligent conversation and make himself understood clearly. How they won their Gold awards makes good reading, but it is not only the boys who show this spirit of adventure.

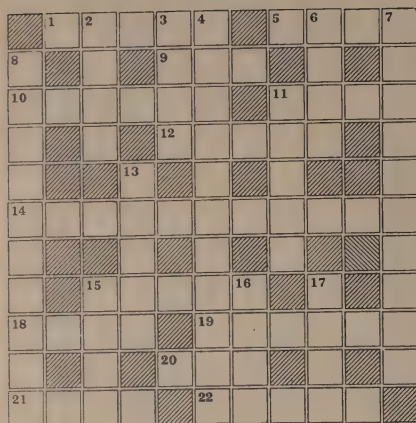
There is the story of five heavily handicapped girls, who excelled themselves with sheer determination to overcome difficult tasks in a camping expedition. One of these girls only just twelve months ago was brought from a hospital bed to receive her Bronze award, has now completed the tasks satisfactorily, and she looks forward to receiving her Silver medal. Another of these brave young ladies confined to a wheelchair, set out propelling herself in her chair over the very rough and difficult course set out for her, the other armed with their writing aids and leg irons also showed the stern stuff they are made of. And still the story of Gold, Silver and Bronze goes on. Many of the younger members are now busy working industriously to achieve Bronze awards.

What makes this possible? It is the spirit which thrives amongst the club members, the more able always prepared to help those not so fortunate as themselves. The example to persevere being set by the older to the younger are only a few of the ingredients which makes the Cardiff 62 Club predominant in the district.

Regarding the rest of the club, it is not all Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, far from it, due to the dedicated people who come along as trainers in the various sections, much talent has been unearthed, and today members of the Club are able to both compete and entertain neighbouring Youth Clubs, they run their own Christmas pantomimes, and have shown many successes in local Eisteddfod, even contributing items on the stage at the local theatre.

The need is now being met, and the harvest now being reaped, is greater than what was anticipated when the Association decided to form this Club. The Association looks upon them with pride, but the wonderful spirit amongst the members is the most precious thing.

The Geoffrey Cross-word and Puzzle Page



Every other magazine has a puzzle page at Christmas, so why shouldn't we?

We thought that this cross-word and the puzzles sent in by a spastic, Mr. Geoffrey Cross, would well and truly tax the brains of our readers, somewhat somnolent after all that food and drink

Y	P	E	V	E
C	P	O	T	R
H	A	H	S	Y
R	T	M	A	B
I	S	Y	D	O

The Word Square

A seasonal message is hidden in the square above. First find where to begin, then move to any adjoining small square (not diagonally) until every letter has been used and the message is revealed.

(Solutions on p. 26)

Clues Across

1. Request we come back a little out of line (5)
5. Athletes need plenty but ladies may use only one (4)
9. This boy really shines! (3)
10. A coloured vehicle in Yorkshire (6)
11. Nana's other name (4)
12. Dirty particles must be rearranged and a shilling added (5)
14. Could be just what's needed when you're in a tight spot (6-5)
15. Separate for an actor (5)
18. Actually they prevent you putting pen to paper (4)
19. At the end of it you've had all you can take! (6)
20. Nearly let water in the meadow (3)
21. One of almost forty novel features (4)
22. Somewhat of a wind, we hear, and rough out (5)

Clues Down

2. The players are in residence (4)
3. Swear about a missing letter for ages! (4)
4. Such people obviously have central heating! (4-7)
6. Without direction nurses vary the containers (4)
7. Signal to the boy showing off (5, 5)
8. Are they exchanged blow for blow? (5, 5)
11. A learner sat around compiling a set of maps (5)
13. Lights and secures all but the top (5)
15. Fit a point after lab alterations (4)
16. A drop of emotion (4)
17. A hundred and one have a letter for the cook (4)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Niners

- 3 6 4 7 9 6 give a piece of furniture
1 8 5 9 give an animal
5 2 1 6 give a fruit

The whole can be very useful at Christmas time!

Find the Missing Link

Think of four words which fit the following clues. If correct, they are all linked by a fifth that has a seasonal ring about it:

1. Two or three paces can take you through it.
2. Pull on the trigger in order to do it.

3. An occasion for two who share love sublime.
4. That TV commercial or musical rhyme.

Anagram Corner

Ah, try Al's beer!
(It may show positive results)

In Party Mood

Meet three friends of mine who are keen to join in the festive spirit:

Bill Rae
Bob Ula
Victor E. Evans

... but by rearranging the letters in their names you'll discover their party tastes are not those we might associate with Christmas.

IF

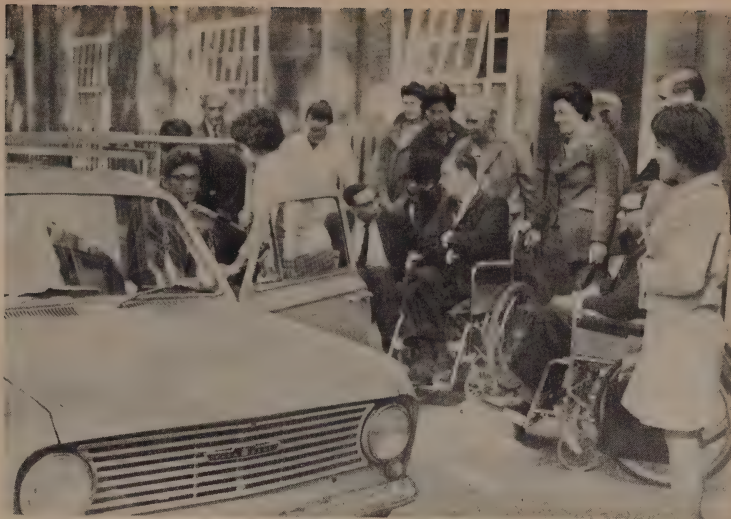
(With apologies to R. Kipling)

If you can keep your head
when all about you
Are patting it as though
you were aged two;
If you can trust your limbs
when others doubt you—
Accept help with good grace,
not as your due;
If you can be content
with your low earnings,
While others round have
so much more to spend;
If you can learn
to conquer normal yearnings,
To 'sublimate' and not
go round the bend:

If you can walk in crowds
and keep your balance,
And talk with kings
but not let speech be slurred;
If, when they praise
some very minor talents,
You can let your real
achievements go unheard;
If you can keep your dignity on falling,
Get up to face the starers with a smile;
If you can bear the welfare workers
calling
To tabulate you neatly on their file:

If you can face your limitations squarely,
Yet keep on striving to the bitter end—
You'll be more than just a spastic, clearly,
You'll be a bloody miracle, my friend.

(By a Spastic)



For more information on these appliances or any others, please write to me, giving as much detail as possible.

N. D. B. Elwes,
Aids and Appliances,
The Spastics Society,
12 Park Crescent,
London, W.1

Mr. Peter Large, the Hon. Treasurer of the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled, tries out the new Lanes Car Top Hoist, while some of the 36 representatives of the J.C.M.D. watch on. This Car Top Hoist sells for £80, and is one of the three sold in this country.



The Chairman of the J.C.M.D., Mr. Denly, braving the rain, demonstrates the use of the new Waterproof Apron with Transit Chairs. Mr. Denly announced at the J.C.M.D. meeting that this Apron, which he had helped to design, would soon be issued on prescription by the Ministry of Health.

At the recent meeting between J.C.M.D. and the Ministry of Health it was agreed to include this Apron in the new Prescribers Handbook on Wheelchairs soon to be completed.

news and views . . . news and views

Cliff Richard Chooses Off-beat Christmas Card

POP STAR CLIFF RICHARD has chosen for his personal Christmas card this year a picture 'drawn' on a typewriter by a 20-year-old spastic girl who types with one toe.

Mary Older, who has been at Ponds for five years, is unable to use her hands and composes pictures on a typewriter operating the keys with the big toe of her right foot.

When Cliff Richard visited Ponds recently he saw a nativity scene typed by Mary and was so impressed he asked if it could be reproduced as a Christmas card for him. He has since ordered 750 copies.

Bawbees for Spastics

ANNE M. RAE (an ex-Chester Office trainee) writes to say that the Gift Shop opened by her mother and a few friends, in Edinburgh in 1964 is still going strong.

Christmas time is, of course, the season for greetings cards sold on behalf of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics,

and doll raffles, but second-hand clothing, crockery, and household linen are the staple commodities.

The consignor receives two-thirds of the agreed selling price—which has contributed to the shop's success.

Teenage Housefathers

THE PERCY HEDLEY SCHOOL for Spastics in Newcastle, has two 18-year-old Community Service Volunteers working as housefathers. One, James McDonald, younger son of Lady McDonald of Thorpe Hall, Rudston, is filling in time before going to agricultural college and the other is Mr. John Land of Cheshire, C.S.V.'s first blind volunteer.

Their duties include getting the children up in the morning and dressing them, feeding the worst handicapped and wheeling them between classrooms, supervising remedial swimming lessons and being with them during their leisure time.

Coming of Age

TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY congratulations to the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, whose motto is 'Towards a Brighter Horizon'. The Council now has three occupational centres, a residential hostel, a mobile therapy unit and a holiday home for spastics. An adult residential centre for badly handicapped spastics aged 16 to 26 is also being planned.

Halifax Happening

AS A RESULT of an appeal in a local newspaper, the Halifax Spastics Youth Group has received three offers of help from young people in the district. About 70 people attended a social evening which was held during the Yorkshire Spastics Week to interest people in the club. They included the Halifax Charity Gala Queen and members of various local youth clubs.

A TREASURED HANDYMAN

Eighty-four-year-old Mr. G. Hartman seen showing a child at the Slough Centre how a special scooter he has invented should be worked. He is only just out of hospital and has a weak heart, but he works long hours adapting tricycles, chairs and equipment, charges rock bottom prices for his devices, and really loves the children. He has also invented a kind of rickshaw for three children to use at once

Spastic Wins Place at Sussex University

ROGER MASON, an 18-year-old spastic from Falmouth has just started his first term at the University of Sussex. Roger, who was unable to attend school until he was seven, passed his 11-plus and went to Falmouth Grammar School, in 1960. He has nine 'O' Levels, and 'A' Level passes



Roger Mason

in History, Geography and English. He has also won the Duke of Edinburgh's bronze award.

Incapacitated from the waist down, Roger needs walking sticks to get around and has undergone a number of operations. He drives an invalid car and hopes to take his driving test around Christmas. At Sussex he will read English for three years with the prospect of taking a teacher's diploma course afterwards.

'But I may change my mind about the future when I get to University', he says.

New Orders

TWO IMPORTANT NEW ORDERS have been received at Meadway Works, The Spastics Society's modern new factory at Garretts Green Lane, Birmingham.

One is for the assembly of 50 bicycles a week for Dawes Cycles Ltd. The other is for the supply of wheels and brake



. news and

units for 600 wheelchairs made by Amesbury Surgical Appliances.

The Meadway factory has just completed its own design of jig for wheel lacing, and will shortly be going into production of wheels.

Meadway Works is believed to be the first factory in the world specially designed to enable spastics to earn their own living in conditions as near as possible to those of a normal factory.

'We are grateful to all the firms who place work with us', says the manager, Mr. R. G. Miller. 'They are supporting a unique venture, but in return we ensure they get work of the highest quality at the most competitive rates'.

Way-out Weigh-in

MR. RAY HINGLEY, landlord of The Black Horse, Brierley Hill, Staffs, is appealing to overweight people in the area to go on a week's diet in aid of The Spastics Society. Mr. Hingley wants all participants to be sponsored by family and friends who will pay for each ounce lost.

He is hoping to get enough people together to have a weigh-in at his pub with a second weigh-in a week later. A prize might go to the man or woman who raises the most money or loses the most weight. This might catch on well in the New Year when people want to counteract the effects of all that turkey and Christmas pudding.

Casting their Bread on the Waters

THE HASTINGS COUNCIL of Youth helped The Spastics Society to collect £33 7s. 1d. at the swimming baths in September. This money is being allocated towards a hydrotherapy pool for spastics and other disabled people.

Juvenile Jumbles

SEVERAL CHILDREN in different parts of the country held jumble sales in aid of spastics during the summer holidays. Nine children at Barrow-in-Furness raised £5 while two 12-year-old girls collected £7 for the Brampton, Cumberland Branch of The Spastics Society.

Linda Saunders, aged 14, of Letchworth, Herts, raised over £14 with a sale



A RIGHT AND LEFT FOR BOB MONKHOUSE

Bob started the feathers flying at the big pigeon auction organised by 65-year-old pet-shop owner, Wally Pope. There were 250 birds sent in from all over the world, including two from the Royal Loft. Top price of £325 for a bird from France was a world record, and the sale reached a new high of over £4,000

in August and a further £23 at a repeat performance last month. Linda and her young helpers plan to hold another sale after Christmas and are hoping for the same generous support.

Head Digs Pupils

AT THE PRIZEGIVING of Holland Park School recently, the Headmaster said 'Young people today have never before been so aware of social problems or more anxious to contribute towards their solution... Pupils at the school enthusiastically support work in hospitals and orphanages; for spastic and mentally handicapped children and various other charities.'

Youth Puts Pathfinders on the Right Track

MR. PETER DAVIS of Kings Norton, writes in his local paper of a weekend spent recently at Windmill House, Weatheroak, by the *Pathfinders Adult Spastics Club*. A group of young volunteers from the Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs went with them and helped with dressing, waiting at table and pushing wheelchairs.

Mr. Davis, who is a spastic himself, expresses gratitude for the help of these young people who, he says, rendered their services so cheerfully and willingly.

Borstal Boys Learn to Help Others

THE ANNUAL REPORT on the work of the Prison Department says that despite the serious increase in boys who were being sent to borstal institutions, they were being encouraged to participate in some form of social service. Jobs range from helping old-age pensioners and polio victims; teaching spastics to swim, to making toys for handicapped and orphan children.

Barefoot in Park Crescent?

WHAT WITH THE ECONOMIC FREEZE, increased fuel prices, reduced pools income, breathalyser tests and no cigarette coupons, this promises to be truly the winter of our discontent.

However, it is worth considering a quote (source unknown) which appeared in the latest newsletter of the Halifax Spastics Society:—
'I GRUMBLED BECAUSE I HAD NO SHOES UNTIL I SAW A MAN WHO HAD NO FEET'.

★ ★ ★

A JOLLY CHRISTMAS FREAK-OUT
AND A PSYCHEDELIC NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS.

★ ★ ★

This remarkable article by a 15-year-old makes us suspect that its author has herself those very qualities she admires so much in others.

Why I want to work for the handicapped

by VICTORIA TOLHURST

I FIRST CAME INTO CONTACT with handicapped children when, at the age of eight, I was sent to a boarding school for delicate girls. It was a convent situated on the sea-front and it was here that I met Christina. Most of the children at the convent suffered from chest diseases or disturbed minds having been cruelly treated, but Christina was different.

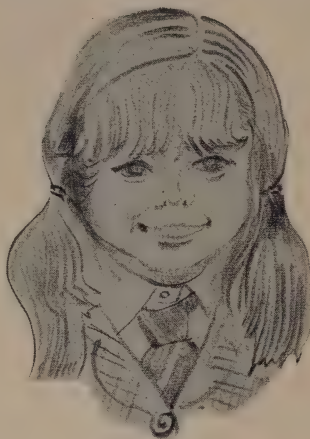
On my second day at school, a little girl pointed out to me another child and whispered: 'She's got funny hands, they don't open and all her skin is covered with blisters.' Being so new and feeling a little lost, I had not noticed this but, with the tactlessness of an eight-year-old, I immediately turned and stared at Christina. I was filled with horror. Little did I guess how friendly I was to become with Christina.

Owing to the fact that I had both asthma and bronchiectasis, I was in bed most of the time, so Sister said that she was going to move another little girl into my dorm, who was also often in bed, to keep me company. I was very pleased—until I heard that it was to be Christina. However, after only one day of talking with Christina, I knew she was going to be my best friend and so, I think, did Sister!

Christina and I got up to all the pranks of two normal children of eight years, and many is the time that Sister had to come and tell us to be quiet. No longer was I frightened of holding hands. Wherever you found Christina, you found me walking hand in hand with her.

I left that school only to be admitted to a children's hospital. I attended for many years, often spending months there and so I became acquainted with many other handicapped children, and not one of them have ever, to my knowledge, pitied themselves. I believe the reason for this is that wherever they looked in hospital they could find someone who was worse off than themselves.

Susan's case is typical of many. She was nine years old, a sturdy little girl, full of fun and good at sports. One day she was riding a friend's bicycle when she lost control and crashed into a brick wall, hitting her head badly. She was rushed to hospital where several operations were performed on her brain, saving her life



The Author

but leaving her left side paralysed. When she was later transferred to our hospital she could not walk but, with a kind and patient physiotherapist, she slowly began to do so, swinging her left leg out as she struggled along. She also had to learn to write with her right hand as she had been left-handed and now she could not use her left hand at all.

At first Susan took the shock of her sudden disablement rather badly, but she was very fortunate in having sensible parents who treated her the same as they had always done, not spoiling her at all.

Now attending School

So gradually she came to terms with her handicap and is now attending her old school once more, regardless of the caliper that she wears on one leg and not caring two hoots about her 'lazy arm' as she calls it. She even tells everyone that one day she will ride a bike again past that wall which was the cause of her handicap.

So far I have only mentioned physically handicapped children, but now I would like to write about the kind of mentally handicapped children that I am interested in.

Debbie was the six-year-old child of rich Egyptian parents, a prettier child you could not wish to see. To look at her

lying in her cot, one would think that she was a normal child, but in fact she had cerebral degeneration. When I first knew her all she could do was lie very rigidly with her legs bent up tight to her body. She also had epilepsy.

I was in hospital then for six or seven months and during that time 'The Queen of the ward', as Debbie was called, gradually began to improve. I am convinced that this was because of all the love and attention that both nurses and patients gave her. I grew to love her and together with another little girl, Ella, I used to take her for walks through the hospital grounds in a pram.

Ella was very backward for her age which was twelve. She came to hospital because for some strange reason she could not walk. The cause was later discovered to be psychological. She was subconsciously putting up an effort to be noticed because she had been so badly neglected. But with a lot of patience and love given by the nurses, by the time she left hospital she was a different child, full of love for everyone, especially Debbie whom she adored.

I have no need to explain why I wish to work with these handicapped children, the little ones that I have written about tell you why—I love them. I do not love them because they are handicapped, but because they are all children with entirely different characters from each other. Because two children both have hydrocephalus it does not mean that they are the same, one could need an entirely different love to the other.

I feel that, as I have had such a lot of experience with these children, I should put it to good use and not waste it. I know that every handicapped child wants to be treated the same as an ordinary person and not as something strange. I know too the pride that they feel when they find they can swim or do some such thing just as well as an 'ordinary' person.

* * *

This article is re-printed here as we thought it was so appropriate to this 'youth' issue, by kind permission of Miss Elizabeth Fitzroy, the Editor of 'The Fellowship Review', the magazine of the Catholic Handicapped Children's Fellowship.

GROUPS and CENTRES in THE NEWS

Two Generous Gifts

IT WAS THOUGHT that the recent decision to cut the Society's grants to local groups from one-third to one-quarter, would be greeted with some dismay—which perhaps it has—but nevertheless, the fighting spirit is still there and in two instances, local groups have dug into their own resources to help the cause in general.

The first is the S.E. Surrey Group which agreed at a recent meeting of the Committee, to give no less than £250 into the central funds.

This Group has a purpose-built Day Centre, erected with the help of a grant from the Society, which is open Monday through to Friday, with occupational therapy on Fridays and physio for the adults on Saturdays.

Transport is by a mini-bus presented by the Variety Club of Great Britain and local bus drivers take turns to deliver the passengers and local school teachers to do the return trips.

Weekly riding classes go to Brian Young's school at Crabbet Park and also to Wendy Payne's at Pink Barn.

In the three years it has been going, the running costs of the Centre have risen from about £1,500 to £2,000 a year, which includes the Supervisor's salary, rates, power, maintenance, etc.

Mr. F. J. Stephenson, M.B.E., the Chairman, who has a niece who is a spastic, says that the initiative was quite spontaneous—and we say extraordinarily generous too.

The other group who have reacted in a similarly generous way, but for a different object, is the S.E. London Group, who heard that Mr. Barley of Kyre Park wanted some money to buy a film projector for this somewhat isolated Centre, and promptly sent him a cheque for £50. S.E. London is only a small group but they have set a wonderful example.

The Society is most grateful to both these groups and we are glad to acknowledge publicly here, our thanks.

Watford is Active

ON SATURDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER LAST, Watford and District Group held their first large-scale fête, in aid of the Watford Treatment Centre, which realised over £240.

The fête was held in Gisburne House grounds, by kind permission of the



NOTTS CRICKETERS PLAY THE GAME: At the annual dinner and dance arranged by Nottingham and District 'Friends of Spastics', Brian Close presented a cheque for 1,000 gns. on behalf of Roths Amateur Club of Carlton. The Duke of Rutland (centre above) described the donation as 'fantastic'. Mr. H. E. Wolff and Mr. A. Roth agreed. A successful initiative by the Group was a 'float' in the University Rag

Borough of Islington who run a children's home there. The Group arranged for a helicopter to pick up Keith Fordyce, the well-known disc-jockey, to come to open the fête, and this proved a great attraction.

Watford's Appeals Committee now have a jumble sale, bazaar, Christmas fayre, grand draw, and a dinner dance on their programme for the winter.

duty at the stall were Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. Cawshaw, Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Stradling, Mrs. Roland-Smith, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Sweetland, Miss Cowan and Mr. Price.

Space is limited, and this was the first time the Group had secured an allotment. It was well worthwhile—the total raised was £60.

Blackburn and District Lose a Good Man

OWING TO A CHANGE of job, Mr. F. Savory, has resigned as Secretary of the Group. He joined in 1954, and was Chairman for six months before becoming Secretary in October 1958. He was instrumental in establishing the new Centre in Preston New Road, which is now open five days a week, and he will be much missed.

Mr. H. Hits Out at Coupon Ban

THE TEES-SIDE SPASTICS SOCIETY Campaign to collect £500,000 cigarette coupons for a Land-Rover (announced in last month's issue) has been threatened by the Government's decision to ban the coupons. Mr. Arthur Heseltine, the Group's Chairman, said, 'It's an infringement of people's liberties'.

However, they might just beat the ban, as between 60 and 70 thousand coupons have already been collected. SPASTICS NEWS readers please send on as many coupons as possible while there is still time.

WHERE MY CARAVAN IS RESTING

Bournemouth, Poole & District Society have bought a new caravan sited at **Holburn Farm Caravan Park, Christchurch, Hants**, near lovely beaches and with all usual services.

The one on the Isle of Wight is still going too. Only 5 gns. a week for a family of three, plus 1 gn. each additional person. (N.B. August is already booked).

Apply:

**Mrs. W. Stephenson,
161 Queens Park Avenue,
Bournemouth, Hants.**

Hallowe'en Fund-Raising

BATH AND DISTRICT'S Mrs. Dawn Hooper held a coffee morning and raised £30 in cash and £10-worth of goods for the Combined Voluntary Organisations' 12th Fair at the Octagon in November. On

NEWS OF THE STARS ORGANISATION FOR SPASTICS



Jack and Betty Howarth with their son John on their Tombola stand at the Manchester Ball

A New Chairman

Leslie Crowther was elected Chairman of the S.O.S. at their Annual General Meeting on 29th October. David Jacobs, the retiring Chairman was elected a Vice-President and Leslie Grade was again elected Honorary Treasurer. John Horsley and Hy Hazell were also re-elected as Chairmen of the two Management Committees

Having a Ball in Manchester

RECENTLY I TRAVELLED to Manchester to attend the S.O.S. 5th Annual Ball. On arrival at the station I bought a *Manchester Evening News* and was very amused to see that one of the news items was headed 'Jack's planning a Ball at his digs'. This, of course, referred to the function that Jack and Betty Howarth organised on Wednesday, 8th November. Over 200 people attended and the fabulous tombola alone raised over £300.

There was a star-studded cabaret with S.O.S. members from both sides of the Atlantic taking part. Dora Bryan, after doing two shows, rushed from the Palace

Theatre where she is appearing in 'Hello Dolly'. She was introduced by John Blythe, also an S.O.S. member and her leading man in the show. The representative from the other side of the Atlantic was Brenda Lee who came straight from doing two performances in clubs outside Manchester, and it was wonderful to have her with us. Also participating were Danny Wilson and ventriloquist, Francesca Formby.

Jack's 'digs' are, of course, the Midland Hotel and the ballroom there was a scene of great activity until the early hours of the morning.

* * *

Michaelmas at Welwyn

I was recently very happy to visit the Welwyn Garden City Group Fair with Alan Freeman and Sheila Stewart. This was the 12th annual Michaelmas Fair at the College of Further Education. It was a huge success and raised approximately £750 after payment of all expenses. Stalls ranging from books and bric-a-brac to gifts and toys did tremendous business as did the two tombolas and the sideshows.

The success of the Fair owed much to the presence of Alan Freeman and Sheila Stewart, and to a tape recorded message from David Jacobs, Chairman of the S.O.S. Alan was mobbed by his fans but found time to welcome visitors, sign autographs by the hundred, as well as auction a cake and take part in the sideshows.

From the proceeds the Group are donating amounts to the schools and centres that have helped their children and to the S.O.S. centres, Wakes Hall and Colwall Court.

The Elephant Remembered

The most unusual pub visit which I have heard of for some time was when Dickie Henderson visited Knaresborough on an elephant which knocked over the beacon totalling £94.

Since I last reported Jack Howarth has visited the Wheatley Working Men's Club at Gorton, Freddie and the Dreamers have done the honours at the 'Navigation', Runcorn, and Freddie (Parrot Face) Davies, conducted the push-over at the 'Newcastle Packet'. All these houses have collected a minimum of £100 for the beacon scheme and our thanks go to the landlords and the celebrities who have made these collections possible.

* * *

THE PRESIDENT of the S.O.S. together with Vice-Presidents, Mrs. W. Cecil Jeapes, Miss Vera Lynn, Miss Maudie Edwards and Mr. Cyril Stapleton, and many members of the Committee attended a charity evening held at the Knightsbridge Sporting Club. A fabulous cold buffet supper was provided by the club. Chairman of the sub-Committee, Mr. Johnny Briggs, said he expected the profits from the evening to be well over £400.

* * *

THE S.O.S. AGAIN PARTICIPATED in the U.C.F. at Grosvenor House on 13th November. Chairman of the sub-Committee, Mrs. Jean Crowther, together with her lady helpers, Miss Gabrielle Brune, Mrs. Ron Goodwin, Mrs. Sheila Stapleton, Mrs. Bob Sharples, Mrs. Sheila Stewart, Mrs. Norrie Paramor and Mrs. Leo Franklyn, collected many wonderful gifts which were sold on the stall. They did a particularly roaring trade in second-hand paper backs and there was a lucky dip with a prize for every ticket which raised just over £100. The highlight of the afternoon was the attendance of the Duchess of Gloucester at the Fair. Mrs. Crowther and Miss Vera Lynn were both presented to her and were pleased to have the opportunity of telling her about the work of the S.O.S.



Pat Sloman of Southern I.T.V. with Mr. Charles Webber, the landlord of The Royal Hotel, Gillingham, Dorset, where she knocked over two beacons. Congratulations go to the landlord who has raised £245 for spastics

Dear Editor,

In this month's issue (November) of SPASTICS NEWS, I was very impressed by the account of how two persons helped each other in a residential home for the handicapped.

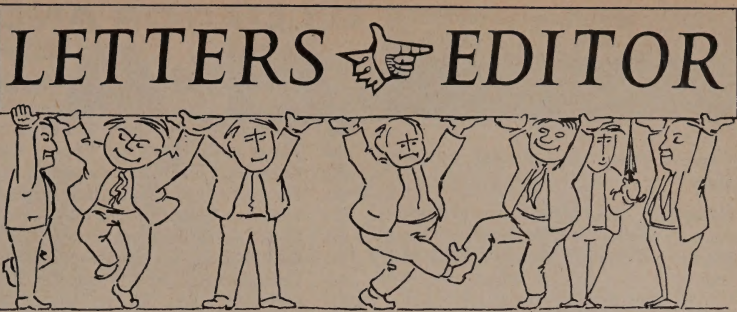
The letter shows the comradeship that so often exists between people afflicted by any kind of serious disability—a comradeship seldom seen among people who can live a normal life.

It makes you realise that an affliction can become a blessing provided the mind is attuned to derive the greatest possible benefit from it.

May I take this opportunity of informing you that I am a spastic who has never attempted to write to you before and, naturally, I hope that my letter will be good enough to be printed—but, obviously, 'the Editor's decision is final'.

I remain yours sincerely, H. MARTIN (Miss), 'Crossways', 66 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

We are delighted to hear from you, Miss Martin.—Editor.



Please address your letters to:

The Editor, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., and print your address clearly at the end of the letter. There is 10s. 6d. for each letter published sent by a spastic.

tics, but the article has made me see that sometimes it cannot be helped, and I am sure that the spastics for whom this physiotherapist cares are aware how lucky they are.

Several years ago I had a nervous breakdown and did not take very kindly to being kept in hospital for nervous diseases, but even there I made friends whom I would otherwise never have met, and although I am now an out-patient only, my increasing better health has made me grateful for the treatment I had there.

I have reason to be grateful also to The Society's Employment Officer, who helped me to obtain my present employment, as the question 'what use am I', mentioned in the reply by an Adult Spastic, troubled me greatly for a long time.

With best wishes to the Society and spastics everywhere.

Yours sincerely, ALMA CANTER (Miss), 31 Exeter Gardens, Cranbrook, Ilford, Essex.

THANKS TO THE SOCIETY

Dear Editor,

October 14th was really a thrilling day for spastics on Tees-side. We had the Duchess of Kent to open our very own Work and Welfare Centre. My friends and I wish to say thank you to the Tees-side Spastics Society and the national Society for providing the money to make this day possible.

I feel sure that our lives will be much more interesting and worthwhile through your efforts in providing this wonderful Centre.

Thank you once again from Tees-side's appreciative spastics.

Sincerely yours, JOYCE MARTIN, 76 Granville Road, Grangetown, Middlesbrough.

This letter was received beautifully written in Braille.—Editor.

SHOULD BE REPRINTED

Dear Editor,

I have been very interested to read the article in the November issue of the SPASTICS NEWS entitled 'Problems of the Older Spastic'.

How well the writer understands, and how ably she puts her viewpoint. It is good to know that we are not forgotten, and a great help to know that at least one person understands our difficulties.

I do wish that the article could be printed and handed to all those who come in contact with spastics. I am sure hospital authorities would benefit by reading it.

I have always fought against being institutionalised and I believe it is a bad thing for anyone and especially for spastics.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

for SPASTICS NEWS, the official monthly journal of The Spastics Society covering every aspect of its work and its Affiliated Societies.

Please send me SPASTICS NEWS every month until further notice at the annual subscription rate of 11s., including postage, starting with the.....issue.

I enclose a cheque/Postal Order herewith.

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CUT OUT and send to:

THE EDITOR, SPASTICS NEWS, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Recent news include the following items:—

GRAHAM ALLINSON from Halifax, is working at Dixon's Wire Works.

JOSEPH BENSON from Worthington, is employed as a general help in the local Co-operative Supermarket.

JOHN CARR from Hanley, has changed his job and is now working in the local Remploy factor.

CARL DAVIS from Cricklewood, has been accepted for work at Remploy.

JANICE DYKE from North Walsham, has a new job and is now working at Aylesham in the Pye factory (manufacturers of television components).

MARILYN EARLEY from Northwood, Cowes, I.O.W., is employed as a part-time clerical assistant in a local secondary modern school.

ROBERT ELDRIDGE from Willesden, is employed at Remploy.

SYLVIA FADE from Southall, has changed her job and is working in the wax room of Westland Helicopters Ltd. (Investment Foundry Division) at Hayes, Middlesex.

TOMMY GUNN from The Bedford, Buxton, has recently started work with Otter Controls Ltd. (thermostat manufacturers) in Market Street, Buxton.

MICHAEL HAMMERSLEY from Batterssea, commenced a new job recently on a trial basis for a firm of electrical engineers in Wandsworth. His work consists of painting components.

SYDNEY HOGAN from Tooting, is employed as a lift attendant at Shell Mex B.P. Ltd., in The Strand, London, W.C.2. **CHRISTINE LAWLESS** from Newport, Mon., has changed her job and is employed on a trial basis at the White Rose laundry.

CHARLES MULLETT from Kingston, is working as a technical assistant in the physics laboratory of Kingston College of Technology.

DIANE McDEVITT from Nottingham, who trained at Sherrards, is now employed by Boots Ltd. She is operating various office machines.

STELLA PARRY from East Dulwich, has changed her job and is now working as a packer for a firm of cosmetic manufacturers in New Cross.

PETER RICHMAN from Barking, who trained at Sherrards, is employed as a capstan operator by Beaven Engineering Co., in Ilford.

EDMUND TUSTIAN from Great Tew, Banbury, is now employed by the Board of Trade in London, and is living at a Civil Service hostel.

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ● ● ●

December

1st	Central Club, Northwood, Middlesex	J. Gardner and J. Spencer
1st	Wilsden Cons. Club, Wilsden, Bradford	J. Rea and K. Kennerley
4th	Granby Tenants Club, Edlington, Doncaster	J. Rea and J. Spencer
5th	Fisher & Ludlow Club, Chester Road, Birmingham	J. Rea and K. Kennerley
5th	Calverley Cons. Club, Calverley, Pudsey, Yorks.	J. Spencer
6th	Ivy Leaf Club, 8 Wellington Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex	J. Gardner and J. Rea
7th	Ericssons Club, Trafalgar Road, Becton, Nottingham	J. Spencer
8th	Const. Club, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, S.W.16	J. Gardner and J. Rea
11th	Devonshire Club, Parliament Street, Morecambe	J. Rea and J. Spencer
12th	Catholic Club, Ann Street, Rochdale	J. Gardner and J. Rea
13th	Cleleys Club, Slinger Road, Cleveley, Lancs.	J. Gardner and J. Spencer
13th	St. James Cons. Club, Ripponden Road, Oldham	J. Rea
14th	Crompton Cons., Queen Street, Shaw, nr. Oldham	J. Gardner and J. Rea
14th	Westerton Rd. Workmen's, Westerton Road, West Ardsley, Wakefield	J. Spencer
15th	Woodfield Club, Woodfield Road, Penn, Wolverhampton	J. Gardner and J. Rea
18th	Robinswood Hill Club, Tuffley, Gloucester	J. Rea
19th	St. James Club, Barton Street, Gloucester	J. Rea
20th	Spring Grove Hotel, Bloomfield Road, Kingston-on-Thames	J. Gardner and H. Holt

KEITH WOOD from Leeds, has changed his job and is now working as a handyman for the Leeds Housing Department.

SUSAN WOODBINE from Sheffield, has a post as clerk in the School Health Department of the Sheffield Education Committee.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:—

SHEILA HASSALL and **JOHN ROBERTS** from the Buxton Centre who are now living at the Southampton Hostel.

Report next month—Editor.

SHIRLEY BARLOW and **PATRICK WENDON**.



AWARD WINNER TO GO TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Twenty-year-old Dorcas Munday of Wellingborough, Northants, wearing her badge presented to her for passing a strenuous test that included typing her results with a stick held between her teeth

SOLUTIONS TO THE GEOFFREY CROSSWORD & PUZZLES

Niners

Small words: Settee, Mole, Lime.
The whole: Mistletoe.

Find the Missing Link

1. Door 2. Fire 3. Wedding 4. Jingle
Link-word: Bells.

Anagram Corner: Breathalyser.

In Party Mood

Liberal, Labour, Conservative.
The Word Square

Happy Christmas to Everybody
(Start at the centre)

The Crossword

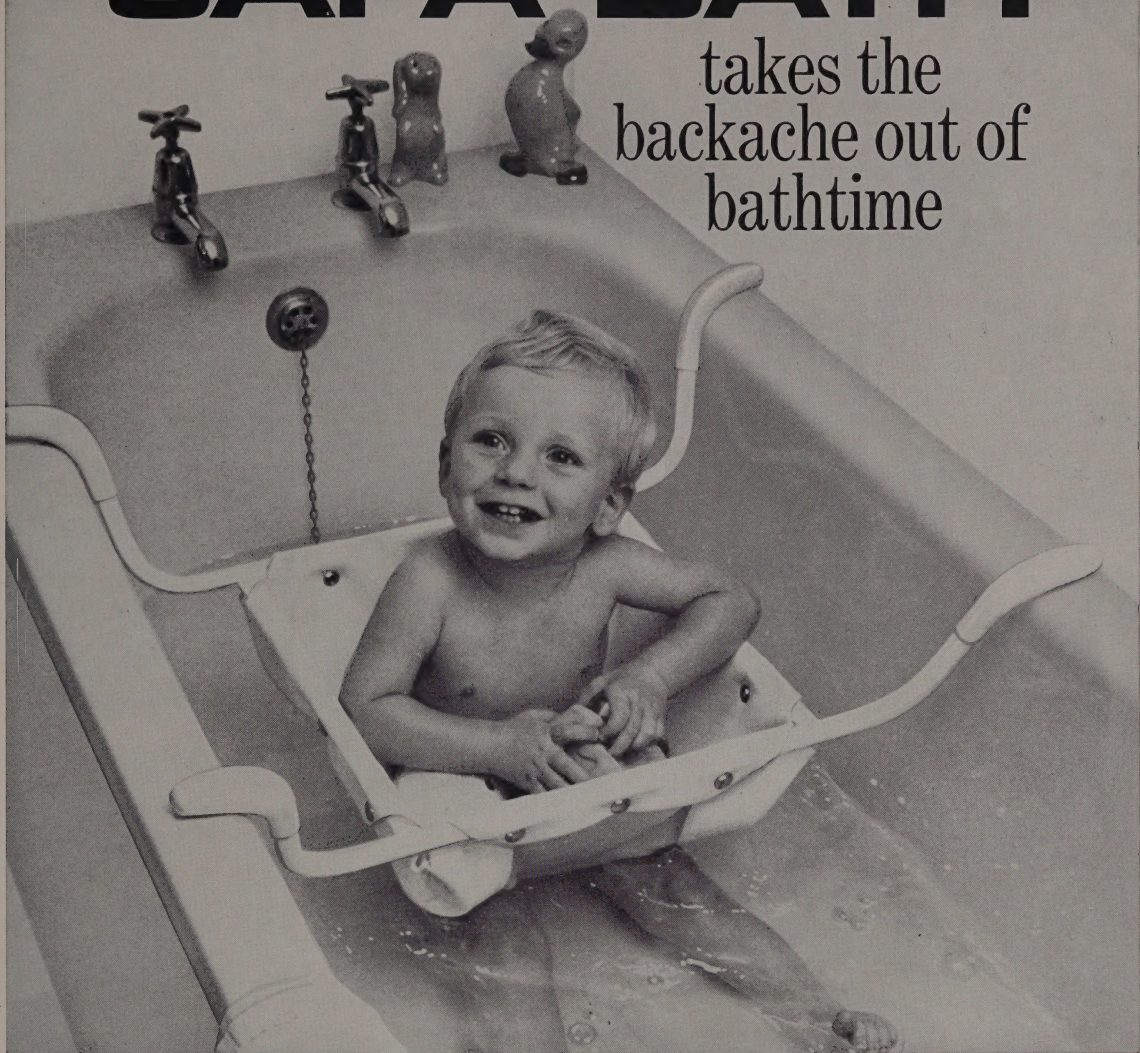
ACROSS	DOWN
1 Askew	2 Side
5 Puff	3 Eras
9 Ray	4 Warm-hearted
10 Redcar	6 Urns
11 Anna	7 Flash Harry
12 Smuts	8 Trade winds
14 Escape hatch	11 Atlas
15 Apart	13 Lamps
18 Nibs	15 Able
19 Tether	16 Tear
20 Lea	17 Chef
21 Step	
22 Draft	

Xmas Tree Appeal

THE N.W. LONDON GROUP has once again been granted permission by the station-master at Fenchurch Street Station to erect a Christmas tree there. There will be carol-singing too.

SAFA-BATH

takes the
backache out of
bathtime



Bathing in a normal size bath is not a happy experience for any baby—and quite a strain for whoever has to do the task. With handicapped children the problem is so much worse. But now SAFA-BATH provides the answer. With SAFA-BATH, the child is totally suspended, through two leg-holes, in the softest fabric leather cloth seat from a strongly constructed frame that rests on the bath edges. The child has an immediate sense of location and security which prevents any sense of fear or dis-

tress. And mother, or nurse, has both hands free to wash the child without any need to support it—thus avoiding strain and back-ache.

Bearing the endorsement of the Design Centre, London, and approved by The Spastics Society, R.O.S.P.A., The Hospital Centre, Craig-y-Parc, and The Nuffield Hospital Management Committee, SAFA-BATH is essential, but inexpensive equipment, which will prove of the utmost value in the care of handicapped children.

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*A Merry Christmas
to all our readers*

THE SHEPHERD BOY — a card printed by Spastics in two
colours. Ref. : E5 (3s. for 6 including envelopes)